



– For Immediate Release –

Wednesday, November 5, 2008

IIMPACT Investigates 47 Drop Houses Arrests 151 Felony Suspects to Date
Latest drop house results in 1 arrest and 5 UDA's rescued

Since it's inception in December 2007, IIMPACT has investigated 47 drop houses, contacted 577 people arresting 151 felony suspects. The latest drop house investigation occurred on October 21, 2008. Phoenix Police officers received information involving two Hispanic males who claimed they were being held captive by people with guns.

A Phoenix Police SWAT team entered a home at 6821 West Cypress Street. IIMPACT detectives were called. Five undocumented aliens were found in the home. One of them stated the "coyote" kept them in a room without windows and carried a pistol with him at all times. The coyote would also point the weapon at the UDA's and threaten violence if they tried to escape.

A search warrant was written on the house. Four weapons were recovered.

Suspect: Gabriel Castillo

Charges: Aggravated Assault
Kidnapping
Extortion
Weapon violation

IIMPACT (Illegal Immigration Prevention & Apprehension Co-op Team) was formed almost a year ago. It is a multi-agency project managed by GIITEM, within the Immigration Enforcement District (IED) of the Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) that is designed to address rising violent crime associated with illegal immigration and is comprised of DPS and Phoenix Police detectives and ICE agents. Also within the IED is the Arizona Fraudulent Identification Task Force to combat organizations that manufacture/sell fraudulent identifications and documents.

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